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US Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket #98P-0151/CPI

Dear Food and Drug Administration:

I would like to urge you to grant petition 98P-0151/CPI to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. It is truly important that we prevent animals that are too sick to stand from entering the human food chain. There is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of Mad Cow Disease which leads to fatal human illness.

In addition, it is impossible to move downed animals humanely, they are typically pushed by tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises to broken bones.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardships.

Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Please take your decision to stop purchasing meat from downed cows for federal programs (inc. the National School Lunch Program) one step further and grant petition 98P-0151/CPI.

Sincerely,

T. Milton Petty

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